

which a house was being remodeled, and they read:

SHE TELLS HER REAL NAME.

The world-famed authors of that stupendous ballad hit, *I Was Not Meant For You* (published by Howe and Hamlin, N. Y.), will open at Slammerstein's Varieties tonight!!! The masked empress of lady song-writers, called by royalty the most beautiful of her sex, will appear under her own name and show the face that set a continent agog!

"Say, I hope we kin get washed up early so we kin go round an' ketch that act," observed the first tenor.

"Quit fretting; you've got him now, Sandy, and you can garnishee the box office for his salary," said Benny.

"An' maybe you think I won't!" returned Sandowlina vindictively. They returned to Twenty-eighth Street, where Benny sent for Sammy Martin.

"I've saw their billin'," said Sammy despondently; but as Benny talked Sammy's eyes gleamed with pleasure, and he said warmly, "Now you seem like yourself! Why, I'll kill that act so dead they'll be buyin' *Gates Ajars* for 'em."

"Take the whole staff to Slammerstein's," said Benny. "Buy seats, even, to get all of them inside and well distributed. Boost every other act on the bill, so that it'll make it more noticeable when they're a frost. I want this masked party to realize that it's not so easy to be a riot in New York as it is coming through the tall grass. No act can get by on its own merits, anyway—not in this burg. While she's still sore at the H. and H. bunch, I'll sign her for us and take her out to a nice little supper—Howe would n't buy her anything better than domestic grape, and she can think about the difference after we've shown her the real thing."

"It's a pipe to git one o' them turns up in the air," exulted Sammy. Wait 'till I git to hissin'! I'll set in a stage box pers'nally, an' trun this dame a nifty bokay, with a wire on it, you know, an' just as she gloms it I'll pull—that gits the house to laughin' an' kiddin', so no pathetic ballad'd have a chance."

Benny was deeply affected by his loyal henchman's enthusiasm, and told him so.

"If I was a centipede, I'd run every leg off for a pal like you, Ben," protested Sammy. He smiled as he thought of the eventful evening before him.

Sandowlina had gone to dine and make up for her performance, Benny agreeing to call for her, so that she might view her neglectful mate and his partner. She was not yet aware of Benny's interest in the mask, as, knowing something of women, he feared to trust her with the secret. Love for Walter might send her to him with a warning.

At eight o'clock, Sammy telephoned that the act commenced at ten, and Benny promised to be present. It was a few minutes after the hour when, with Sandowlina, he greeted the doorkeeper with two expensive cigars, and without further payment entered the darkened house. An usher whom he asked for a program did not hear the request, but Sandowlina glanced at the stage, where a stout young man in evening dress was playing a medley of Howe and Hamlin airs on a piano, and whispered,

"That's Walter—oh, my poor heart, be still!"

Benny smiled grimly.

"Is n't Walter a handsome man?" asked Sandowlina.

BENNY did not reply. He was looking at Sammy, who half rose, holding a magnificent shower of American Beauties. A plugger in an opposite box leaned out, and he too held roses. In another was Ned Howe, and before him on the box rail was a fine

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Is he equipping an intricate and doubtful self-starter that may cause you a lot of trouble, or is he using one that has years of success to its credit?

Does he flop about from one type of car, one size, one price, to another as fast as the seasons change, or has he shown, by consistently producing some one standard car, that he has an established policy and a successful product?

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Is his credit good, enabling him to command the best materials and the best equipment on the market, or must he buy only where sellers are willing to take a risk on him?

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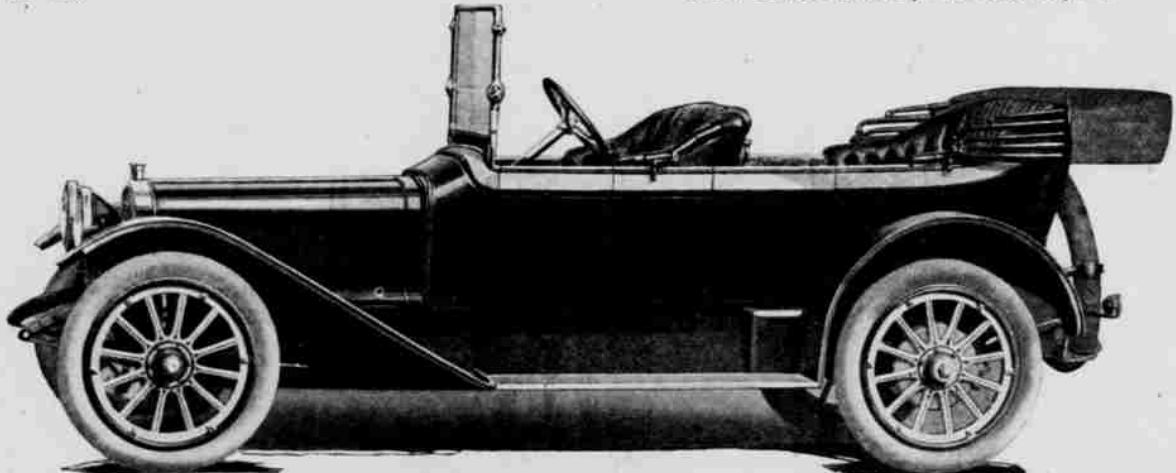
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